

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2A-C, 3A-M and 4. These sheets, which include Figs. 1, 2A-C, 3A-M and 4, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 2A-C, 3A-M and 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-16 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 8 and 11-16 are amended; Claims 8-10, 14 and 16 are canceled; and no claims are added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claims 8, 11, 12, 14 and 16 were objected to; Claims 1-10 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,252,989 to Geisler in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,956,958 to Fan; and Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Geisler and Fan and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,947,572 to Terasaki.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, formal drawings for all Figs. 1, 2A-C, 3A-M and 4 are submitted by the present amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

With respect to the claim objections, Claims 11 and 12 are amended by the present amendment and Claims 8, 14 and 16 are canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or render obvious a first converter that subjects an image data to a low-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a first image data, a second converter that subjects the first image data to a high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a second image data, and an arithmetic unit that conducts an arithmetic operation to obtain a difference between the first image data and the second image data to thereby generate a third image data, as recited in Claim 1 and similarly recited in Claims 13 and 15.

Instead, Geisler is concerned with acquiring an image and reducing the image with a Foveated Laplacian pyramid algorithm to form a plurality of down-sampled images. In particular, Geisler discloses that the starting image 60 is filtered by convolution with a linear weighing function and then down-sampled by a factor of two in each dimension to obtain a smaller, lower-resolution image 62. The down-sampled image 62 is interpolated to obtain a larger, lower resolution image 64. Next, expanded image 64 is subtracted from the starting image 60 to obtain a difference image 66. The thresholded image is quantized to obtain additional data compression. Quantization is a form of compression where the number of colors used to represent image elements is reduced.

Fan discloses that color information and registration information are extracted from an original image and the extracted color information and registration information are encoded in a digital watermark associated with the original image. In particular, as shown in Figure 1, the original image is provided and the color information and registration information is extracted from the original image in step 12. Extracted color information and registration information is encoded in a watermark in step 14 and associated with the original image. A hard copy of the original image with a digital watermark containing the encoded color information is produced in step 16. In step 20 of Figure 1, the digital watermark is retrieved and decoded. If the retrieved embedded color information has been compressed, it is decompressed in step 21. Then, the scanned image is aligned with the original image, using the registration information carried implicitly or explicitly by the watermark, in step 22.

Accordingly, there is no teaching in the applied art for a first converter that subjects an image data to a low-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a first image data, a second converter that subjects the first image data to a high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a second image data, and an arithmetic unit that conducts an arithmetic operation to obtain a difference between the first image data and the second image data to

thereby generate a third image data. Further, there is no motivation to combine the teachings of the applied art. That is, it is respectfully submitted that there is no basis in the teachings of either Geisler or Fan to support their applied combination. Certainly, the outstanding Office Action fails to cite to any specific teachings within either reference to support the applied combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Geisler with Fan is the result of hindsight reconstruction in view of the teachings of the present specification, and is improper.

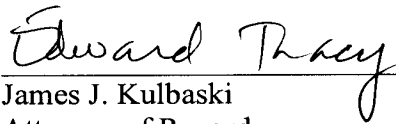
Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Kevin M. McKinley
Registration No. 43,794

Edward W. Tracy
Registration No. 47,998

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

JJK:KMM\la
I:\ATTY\KMM\PROSECUTION WORK\246101\246101US-AM.DOC